Exploration of Oil and Gas by Private Companies

313. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited international and private companies to bid for 72 blocks—39 Offshore and 33 Onshore— for exploration of oil and gas under the fourth round of bidding; and

(b) if so, the response received therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 24 bids have been received from 31 companies, either on their own or in consortium, for 13 blocks—5 offshore and 8 onshore.

Import of Oil

314. SHRI SURESH KALMADI. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the quantum of oil imported by India during the financial year 1991-92 and the amount in respect thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that more oil was bought from spot market than through term contracts; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) About 33.2 MMT crude oil and petroleum products valued at Rs. 12,700 crores (approximately) were imported during 1991-92.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Supplies from erstwhile USSR were affected due to their internal developments. Crude oil import requirement increased during the year over the planned quantities due to decline in the indigenous crude oil in the indigenous crude oil production.

Railway projects in Tamil Nadu

315. SHRI R. T. GOP ALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway projects taken up in Tamil Nadu during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the target fixed for completion of each project;

(c) the progress of each project upto March 31, 1992;

(d) the reasons for the time and cost over-run, if any; and

(e) the expected date for the completion of the projects at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (e) A statement is attached.

Statement

S. No.	Name of project	Estimated cost	Target date fixed for completion	Progress upto March 31, 1992	Reasons for time and cost over-run	Expected date for completion
1	Tambaram–Chengalpattu Doubling (30.7 Km)	Rs. 28.43 crore	March, 1991	Completed on schedule	There was no over-run	—
2	Replacement of obsolete micro-wave system between Madras and Mysore	Rs. 23.86 crore	March, 1994	Project in advanced stage of completion, with contracts for some major equipment having been awarded and for some others tenders have been invited.	—	March, 1994

Only Major Projects costing over Rs. 20 crore have been listed.